

This Week in Congress

November 29, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you and your family enjoyed spending time together on Thanksgiving and had a chance to reflect on all we have to be thankful for as Americans. This week's headlines are:

- [Keeping Kansas First: Continuing 14th Annual Listening Tour](#)
- [Hunting in Northwest Kansas](#)
- [Administration Must Enforce Iran Sanctions](#)
- [In the Office](#)

Keeping Kansas First: Continuing 14th Annual Listening Tour

I continued my annual listening tour this week with stops in Barton and Ford Counties. During the last 14 years, I have hosted a town hall in each of the 69 counties of the Big First Congressional District, and have held a total of more than 900 town hall meetings. As Senator-elect, I look forward to continuing these conversations with Kansans in all 105 counties across our state. I always appreciate the opportunity to hear what is most important to Kansans because it greatly impacts my work in Washington.

On Tuesday, I was in Barton County at the Great Bend Front Door Community Center and on Wednesday I traveled to Ford County to visit with area residents at the Dodge City Civic Center. Thanks to Dan Curtis and LaVeta Miller with the Central Prairie Honor Flight for presenting me with a Patriot Guard Rider Defenders of Freedom patch. The Patriot Guard Riders are American motorcycle riders who attend military funerals at the request of families to provide a buffer from protesters and to show their respect for fallen service members. A resolution I authored to commend the Patriot Guard Riders for their dedication to fallen service members was approved by the House of Representatives.

During both town hall meetings this week, I visited with Kansans about a number of issues facing our state and country. One issue that came up is the extension of the current tax rates. Unless Congress acts before the end of the year, taxes will increase for all Americans, many of whom run small businesses and employ American workers. To put people back to work, Congress must lower the tax and regulatory burden so businesses can grow and create jobs. I anticipate Congress will be debating this issue when we return to Washington today. I will continue to fight against higher taxes. [Click here](#) to see photos from the stops. [Click here](#) to view a map of the counties I have visited.



[Share on Facebook](#) • [Tweet this](#) • [Email this](#)

Hunting in Northwest Kansas

Hunting is a significant contributor to our state's economy and very much a part of our way of life in Kansas. This weekend, I joined many Kansans in fields in the Northwest region of our state to hunt pheasant and quail. In 2008, Senator Pat Roberts and I worked to pass legislation to increase hunting opportunities for sportsmen and stimulate rural economies. This Open Fields initiative, which earlier this year was implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is expected to open up more than 10 million new acres of private land to the public by providing incentives to landowners to voluntarily make their land accessible. The program generates extra income for farmers and ranchers who participate, while boosting the Kansas economy and continuing our state's outdoor heritage.

After hunting, I stopped in Palco and enjoyed lunch at the local grocery store and visiting with local residents. I appreciated my conversations with other orange-clad sportsmen during my trip and the chance to talk with local residents about issues important to them. [Click here to view photos from my visit.](#)



[Share on Facebook](#) • [Tweet this](#) • [Email this](#)

Administration Must Enforce Iran Sanctions

Congress passed legislation this summer that requires the President to impose sanctions on any foreign firm that invests more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector. Yet, since the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act became law on July 1, the Obama Administration has only sanctioned one foreign firm—Naftiran Intertrade Co. Many firms continue to do business in Iran in violation of U.S. law. The business activities of these companies undercut the effectiveness of the sanctions passed by Congress and other countries and enable Iran to continue its nuclear program.

This week, I asked U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to initiate investigations of four foreign companies that are believed to be developing Iran's natural gas resources. Should these firms be found to be in violation of U.S. law, the Administration must enact the prescribed penalties. Enforcement of U.S. sanctions law is necessary to persuade Iran to end its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

[Share on Facebook](#) • [Tweet this](#) • [Email this](#)

In the Office

Several Kansans visited my office in Washington, D.C., for tours of the U.S. Capitol building this week, including Richard and Rosana Dubois of Dodge City and David, Kelly, Zachary and Addison Hart of Great Bend.

[Share on Facebook](#) • [Tweet this](#) • [Email this](#)

Contact Me

It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. To send me an email, [click here](#) . You can also [click here](#) to contact me through one of my Kansas offices or my Washington, D.C., office.

Very truly yours,

Jerry